GUIDANCE DOCUMENT: 76-2.1

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS - DIRECTIVES

	DIRECTIVE NO: **1.9**
	EFFECTIVE: **9-15-03**
APPROVAL:_____	**SUPERSEDES:** **6/22/01**

1.9   Internet Privacy Policy Statement

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish and explain the Department's Internet privacy practices for visitors to Web sites operated by or on behalf of the agency. Nothing in this policy should be construed as a contractual promise or obligation.

Policy: It is the policy of the Department of Health Professions that, except as otherwise required by law or regulation or for the conduct of business with the Department (such as on-line renewal of licenses by credit card), no personal, identifying information will be maintained on any visitor to a Web site operated by or on behalf of the Department.

Procedures:

The Department operates or contracts for the operation of three sites.
1.) www.dhp.state.va.us
2.) www.vahealthprovider.com
3.) www.vipnet-org/dhp/cgi-bin/search_publicdg.cgi

1.) For www.dhp.state.va.us

No personal information, including name and e-mail address, is collected through this web site, except when the visitor deliberately decides to send it to the Department (for example, by sending an e-mail message). No personal information is collected except as noted above. This site does not track a visitor's movements through the website nor does it place a "cookie" on a visitor's computer.

2.) For www.vahealthprovider.com

This site is used for two purposes:
a.) It collects personal information required pursuant to §54.1-2910.1 of the *Code of Virginia,* commonly known as physician profiling. This site is a secure, password-protected site for the submission of data required by law for practitioners licensed by the Board of Medicine as physicians of medicine, osteopathy, and podiatry. This data is a self-reported by each individual. It tracks every transaction entered by the practitioner including date. It is used for administrative purposes to manage the data

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collection process, and is accessible by password to agency staff, contractors and subcontractors. It may be disclosed consistent with Virginia Freedom of Information Act, the Administrative Process Act, and Title 54.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. It does not place a "cookie" on the user's computer.

b.) This site is used to disseminate data submitted by physicians to any person who wishes to query the profiled data. When used this way, it is not password protected. Nor does it track the user's movements throughout the site or place a cookie on the user's computer.

c.) For www.vipnet-org/dhp/cgi-bin/search_publicdg.cgi

This site is operated for the Department by Virginia Information Providers Network (VIPNet) of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA). VIPNet's Privacy Statement is hereby incorporated by reference. VIPNet's privacy policy can be found at VIPNet's Web site, www.vipnet.org.

Disclaimer

The Department of Health Professions (DHP) web site has links to other web sites. These include links to web sites operated by other government agencies, nonprofit organizations and private businesses. When a link to another site is activated, the user is no longer on the DHP Web site and this Privacy Policy will not apply. When transferred to another web site, the user is subject to the privacy policy of that new site.

Neither the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Department of Health Professions, nor any employee of the Department warrants the accuracy, reliability or timeliness of any information published by this system, nor endorses any content, viewpoints, products or services linked from this system, and shall not be held liable for any losses caused by reliance on the accuracy, reliability or timeliness of such information. Portions of such information may be incorrect or outdated. Any person or entity that relies on any information obtained from this system does so at his or her own risk.